46. A considerable portion of the forest area of the Poona Division has been differentiated on the maps into forest blocks; and during the year, 50 blocks were formed as under :—

Range.	No. of blocks.
Junnar...	17
A'mbegaon	10
Khed	7
Haveli...	6
Mával	5
Bhimthadi	5
Total ...	50

All these blocks have also been divided into 40 compartments; and 26 compartments in all the above ranges, except Bhimthadi, have been marked out on the ground for conversion into coupes for the timber operations of the ensuing season.

47. No working plans have been applied up to date to the forests in the Sátára Division; but the Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Fagan, has drawn up provisional plans for the working of the whole of the teak region, except in the Pátan Range, on a rotation of 40 years, and the first experimental coupes in Jávli, Karád, Khandála, Khatáv, Koregaon, Sátára and Wái Ranges have been marked on the ground.

48. In the Sholápur Division provisional working plans for the exploitation of the bábul reserves, situated on the banks of streams and rivers, have been drawn up, and 10 coupes, aggregating an area of 277 acres, in the ranges of Sholápur, Mádha and Pandharpur have been sold for the exploitation of timber and firewood at the cost of the purchasers.

49. The laying out of forest blocks, and of the component compartments of forest blocks, upon the ground is retarded for the want of subordinates qualified in surveying to carry on this work in all divisions and in all ranges of every division. The forest areas are very wide-stretching and scattered, and the work of parcelling them all out into blocks and compartments, and of demarcating the boundaries upon the ground of the blocks and compartments, is herculean, and unless a large staff of surveyors is specially organized to undertake it in every division, the work must necessarily be of very slow progress. At best, only one compartment to become a coupe for the exploitation of timber and other forest produce from it, can be demarcated annually by the Range Forest Officers, and the one divisional surveyor, in the more accessible forest blocks of some of the ranges in a division; and the work is also to a certain extent hung up, while the forest areas are in a state of transition, under settlement inquiries, and sorting into classes.

Then, again, specially trained subordinates are required, in greater numbers than are at present available, in order to be able to prepare all the annual compartments of a division to become coupes. An ordinary forest guard, who has received no professional education, and whose natural intelligence is not of a high class, is not able to make a good selection of the trees in a compartment which are required to be reserved to live through another rotation, to select correctly the trees to be felled, and to make an enumeration, classification, contents calculation and valuation of the latter, and as the success of the working plans of forests of the Deccan depends greatly upon the way the sylvicultural rules drafted to regulate heavy improvement fellings are applied to the compartments in their conversion into coupes, it is necessary that the work should be entrusted to men who are capable of performing it satisfactorily.

(*b*). Annual Plans of Operations.

50. The annual plans of operations were, as usual, drawn up and submitted after the total figures of the sanctioned Budget Estimates of the year had been communicated, and they provided, among other operations, for the exploitation of timber and firewood by departmental fellings as well as by purchasers and

consumers, the departmental collection of the hirda (nut of Terminalia chebula), collection of shikakai (Acacia concinna) by purchasers, supply of bamboos on the permit system, &c. The demand for grass and grazing was met by sales of valuable kurans, or special grass reserves, and of grass on permits. Grazing to agricultural and other cattle was furnished in open forests on free and fee permits in accordance with the orders of Government on the point. The Bhil privilege-holders in the two divisions of Khándesh cut wood and bamboos, and remove them together with other forest produce from the Sátpuda forests, in the exercise of their conceded privileges; and local demands were thereby satisfied.

II.—WORKING OF THE YEAR.

(*a*). Communications and Buildings.

51. The Divisional Forest Officer, West Khándesh, spent a small sum of Rs. 6-12-0 in repairing the Kalambari forest road in the Pimpalner Range. Beyond this nothing has been done by this Department in connection with the construction of roads.

52. The following is a brief account of the new works and repairs to existing roads, &c., undertaken during the year by the Public Works Department at the cost of the Provincial Service Budget, the original projects having been started either at the suggestion of, or with the concurring opinion of the Forest Department.

The Executive Engineer, Khándesh Division, has made a commencement of the road from Warsa to Waghai. This road is designed with the object of connecting the minor States in the Dángs with Násik and Khándesh, and of facilitating the traffic of the timber coming down from the Dángs forests. The actual work done during the season from January to June, when work is possible in such an unhealthy and malarious part of the Dángs, is about 1½ miles, and the expenditure incurred is Rs. 5,164-10-2.

The Haste-Barke road in the Peint Táluka of the Násik Division has been finished, except the surfacing, to three miles, and was extensively used during the year for timber traffic.

In the Ahmednagar Division, two roads—one from Randha to Sarmad and the other from Jámgaon to Kotul—were in progress during the year. Two unfinished slab drains on the first were commenced and nearly completed, while on the second road three masonry culverts have been constructed.

No new roads were undertaken during the year in the Poona Division, but the Ghoda-A'mbegaon road, the work of which was started in 1888-89, was completed during the year 1892-93 at a cost of Rs. 52,402.

53. A detailed account of the works undertaken during the year at the cost of the Provincial Service Budget, by the Public Works Department, at the instance of, and under sanctions given by, the Conservator of Forests, from the discretionary grant of Rs. 2,000 which has been sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 183 A.—622, dated 18th April 1892, Public Works Department, is exhibited in the following statement:—

No.	Executive Officer.	Nature and Locality of Work.	Amount sanctioned.
			Rs.
1	Executive Engineer, Násik ...	Providing planked shutters to three glazed windows to the Range Forest Office at Nándgaon	22
2	Do. do. ...	Extending the godown of cook-room of the Divisional Forest Officer's bungalow	274
3	Do. do. ...	Providing a coach-house to the Divisional Forest Officer's bungalow	184
4	Do. Poona ...	Improvements to the Range Forest Office at Indápur	91
5	Executive Engineer, Sátára ...	Making roof of the Range Forest Office, Pátan, water-tight, and for providing a door	46
6	Do. Khándesh ...	Stone paving to the Range Forest Office, Bhusával	60